

What is claimed is:

1. A female format connector, usable for connection with a male format connector having at least one alignment pin, the female format connector comprising:
 - a housing,
 - a ferrule, contained within the housing, comprising at least one high-precision piece coupled to a low precision piece,
 - wherein the low precision piece comprises a first alignment opening dimensioned to accept the alignment pin of the male format device;
 - wherein, prior to being coupled to the low precision piece, the at least one high-precision piece comprises multiple fiber holes and a second alignment opening,
 - and wherein the first and second alignment openings are sized and positioned to provide accurate alignment between the high-precision piece and the low precision piece during coupling of the high-precision piece and the low precision piece to each other;
 - and wherein the high-precision piece is modified such that the second alignment opening after modification is larger than the second alignment opening prior to the coupling.
2. The female format connector of claim 1 wherein the second alignment opening before modification is a cylinder having a cross section of a first diameter and the second alignment opening after modification is a cylinder having a cross section of a second diameter, larger than the first diameter.

3. The female format connector of claim 2 wherein the high-precision piece comprises a first material and the surface has a second material on it different the first material.
4. The female format connector of claim 3 wherein the second material has a greater hardness than the first material.
5. The female format connector of claim 3 wherein the second material has a greater abrasion resistance than the first material.
6. The female format connector of claim 3 wherein the second material is a metal.
7. The female format connector of claim 6 wherein the metal is gold.
8. The female format connector of claim 3 wherein the second material is one of an oxide, a nitride, or an oxy-nitride, or a polymer.
9. The female format connector of claim 3 wherein the second material is silicon nitride.
10. The female format connector of claim 3 wherein the second material is silicon carbide.

11. The female format connector of claim 3 wherein the second material is a carbon based compound.

12. The female format connector of claim 11 wherein the carbon based compound is a diamond thin film.

13. The female format connector of claim 1 wherein the second alignment opening before modification is a cylinder having a cross section of a first diameter and the second alignment opening, after modification, has a surface that is one of a truncated cone, a segment of a cylinder, a curved plane, or a flat plane.

14. The female format connector of claim 13 wherein the high-precision piece comprises a first material and the surface has a second material on it different the first material.

15. The female format connector of claim 14 wherein the second material has a greater hardness than the first material.

16. The female format connector of claim 14 wherein the second material has a greater abrasion resistance than the first material.

17. The female format connector of claim 14 wherein the second material is a metal.
18. The female format connector of claim 14 wherein the metal is gold.
19. The female format connector of claim 14 wherein the second material is one of an oxide, a nitride, an oxy-nitride or a polymer.
20. The female format connector of claim 14 wherein the second material is silicon nitride.
21. The female format connector of claim 14 wherein the second material is silicon carbide.
22. The female format connector of claim 14 wherein the second material is a carbon based compound.
23. The female format connector of claim 22 wherein the carbon based compound is a diamond thin film.

24. A female format connector, usable for connection with a male format connector having at least one alignment pin, the female format connector comprising:

- a housing,
- a ferrule, contained within the housing, comprising at least one high-precision piece coupled to a low precision piece,

wherein the low precision piece comprises a first alignment opening dimensioned to accept the alignment pin of the male format device;

wherein, prior to being coupled to the low precision piece, the at least one high-precision piece comprises multiple fiber holes and a second alignment opening having a first shape,

and wherein the first and second alignment openings are sized and positioned to provide accurate alignment between the high-precision piece and the low precision piece during coupling of the high-precision piece and the low precision piece to each other;

and wherein the shape of the second alignment opening in the high-precision piece is modified to a new shape.

25. A female format connector, usable for connection with a male format connector having at least one alignment pin, the female format connector comprising:

- a housing,
- a ferrule, contained within the housing, comprising at least one high-precision piece coupled to a low precision piece,

wherein the low precision piece comprises a first alignment opening dimensioned to accept the alignment pin of the male format device;

wherein, prior to being coupled to the low precision piece, the at least one high-precision piece comprises multiple fiber holes and a wall surface defining a second alignment opening,

and wherein the first and second alignment openings are sized and positioned to provide accurate alignment between the high-precision piece and the low precision piece during coupling of the high-precision piece and the low precision piece to each other; and

wherein a portion of the high precision piece is removed.

26. The female format connector of claim 25 wherein the portion includes at least half of the second alignment opening.

27. The female format connector of claim 25 wherein the portion includes all of the second alignment opening.

28. The female format connector of claim 25 wherein the high precision piece has a first side and a second side and the portion consists of some of the wall surface.

29. A method of forming a female format ferrule comprising:

coupling a high precision piece, having a first wall defining a first alignment hole, to a low precision piece, having a second alignment hole, the first and second alignment holes being sized to accept a common alignment pin for maintaining accurate alignment between the high precision piece and the low precision piece during the coupling; and

removing at least some of the first wall.